

locations of the mail contents while they are being generated. In the preferred embodiment, each mail content is placed in a window envelope such that the postage indicium on the mail content exposes through a window of the envelope to facilitate inspection of the indicium. In accordance with another aspect of the invention, by including transactional data in addition to the traditional postal data in a postage indicium, the indicium can be used to pay bills, purchase products and services, including any courier service different than the postal service. --

The abstract is included herein on a separate sheet.

In the Claims

Kindly amend the claims as follows:

Cancel Claims 1-7, 29, 30, 82-106, 107-112, 132, 133 and 184-191.

Amend Claim 8:

1 8. (Twice Amended) Apparatus for generating a content of a mail piece, said
2 mail piece including a cover for enclosing said content, said apparatus comprising:
3 an input for receiving data representative of at least said content, said data excluding a
4 value of cost of delivery of said mail piece,
5 a processor for computing the cost of delivery of said mail piece based on said data; and
6 an output for generating said content based on said data, and applying,
7 contemporaneously, at least an indicator indicative of the computed cost onto said content at a
8 selected location thereof.

Amend Claim 26:

1 26. (Twice Amended) Apparatus for processing a mail piece for which postage
2 needs to be dispensed before delivery of the mail piece, comprising:

3 an interface for obtaining, from the mail piece, selected information appearing on the
4 mailing piece, said information including data identifying an originator of said mail piece; and
5 a processor responsive to at least the selected information for determining whether to
6 dispense the postage, wherein said processor disallows a dispensation of the postage when said
7 originator is determined to be unauthorized to expend the postage.

Amend Claim 31:

1 4 31. (Amended) The apparatus of claim [29] 26 wherein the originator is an
2 individual.

Amend Claim 32:

1 9 32. (Amended) The apparatus of claim [29] 26 wherein the originator is an
2 organization.

Amend Claim 36:

1 9 36. (Amended) [Postage] An indicium dispensing apparatus comprising;
2 SUB C a processor for creating [a postage] an indicium, said [postage] indicium including a
3 proof of payment, for service by a first party, and transactional data comprising at least
4 information representative of a transaction amount, said first party causing said transaction
5 amount to be paid to a second party in response to at least said transactional data when said first
6 party processes said [postage] indicium; and
7 an output for generating said [postage] indicium.

Amend Claim 38:

17 1 38. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 36 ⁹ wherein said transactional data includes information concerning an originator of said [postage] indicium.

Amend Claim 46:

18 1 46. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 36 ⁹ wherein said [postage] indicium includes a digital signature for authenticating at least part of said [postage] indicium.

Amend Claim 48:

19 1 48. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 36 ⁹ wherein said [postage] indicium includes a human readable portion.

Amend Claim 51:

20 1 51. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 36 ⁹ wherein said [postage] indicium includes a machine readable portion.

Amend Claim 53:

1 1 53. (Amended) The apparatus of claim [52] 36 ⁹ wherein said [second] first party is 2 a courier other than [the] a postal authority.

Amend Claim 55:

21 1 55. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 36 ⁹ wherein said [postage] indicium is generated onto a tangible medium.

Amend Claim 56:

1 25 56. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 56 wherein said tangible medium is [paper]
 2 a label.

24

Amend Claim 57:

1 19/ 57. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 36 wherein said [postage] indicium is
 2 generated onto a mail piece.

9

Amend Claim 58:

1 33 58. (Amended) [Postage] An indicium processing apparatus comprising:
 2 a processor for processing at least one [postage] indicium including a proof of payment,
 3 for service by a first party, and transactional data comprising at least information representative
 4 of a transaction amount; and
 5 an output responsive to at least said transactional data for causing said transaction amount
 6 to be paid to a second party when the [postage] indicium is processed.

Amend Claim 59:

1 45 59. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 58 wherein said [postage] indicium appears
 2 on a mail piece.

33

Amend Claim 61:

1 34 61. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 58 wherein said processor includes a
 2 scanner for scanning at least part of said [postage] indicium.

Amend Claim 63:

AIA Sub 1 > 3463. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 58 wherein said transactional data includes information concerning an originator of said [postage] indicium.

Amend Claim 71:

AIA Sub 1 > 3971. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 58 wherein said [postage] indicium includes a digital signature for authenticating at least part of said [postage] indicium.

Amend Claim 73:

AIA Sub 1 > 5473. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 58 wherein said [postage] indicium includes a human readable portion.

Amend Claim 76:

AIA Sub 1 > 4276. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 58 wherein said [postage] indicium includes a machine readable portion

Amend Claim 78:

AIA 1 4978. (Amended) The apparatus of claim [77] 58 wherein said [second] first party is 2 a courier other than [the] a postal authority.

Amend Claim 113:

AIA 1 113. (Twice Amended) A method for generating a content of a mail piece, said 2 mail piece including a cover for enclosing said content, said method comprising the steps of:

3 receiving data representative of at least said content, said data excluding a value of cost
4 of delivery of said mail piece;
5 computing the cost of delivery of said mail piece based on said data;
6 generating said content based on said data; and
7 applying, contemporaneously, at least an indicator indicative of the computed cost onto
8 said content at a selected location thereof.

119
Amend Claim 130:

1 *59* 130. (Twice Amended) A method for processing a mail piece for which postage
2 needs to be dispensed before delivery of the mail piece, comprising the steps of:
3 obtaining from the mail piece selected information appearing on the mail [mailing] piece,
4 wherein the selected information includes data identifying an originator of said mail piece; and
5 determining whether to dispense the postage in response to at least the selected
6 information, wherein a dispensation of the postage is disallowed when said originator is
7 determined to be unauthorized to expend the postage.

120
Amend Claim 134:

1 *61* 134. (Amended) The method of claim [132] 130 ⁵⁹ wherein the originator is an
2 individual.

121
Amend Claim 135:

1 *62* 135. (Amended) The method of claim [132] 130 ⁵⁹ wherein the originator is an
2 organization.

Amend Claim 139:

1 6¹ 139. (Amended) A method for dispensing [postage] payments comprising the steps
2 of:
3 creating [a postage] an indicium, said [postage] indicium including, a proof of payment
4 for service, by a first party, and transactional data comprising at least information representative
5 of a transaction amount, said first party causing said transaction amount to be paid to a second
6 party in response to at least said transactional data when said first party processes said [postage]
7 indicium; and
8 generating said [postage] indicium.

*Amend 139
Sub 139
20*

Amend Claim 141:

1 6¹ 141. (Amended) The method of claim 139 wherein said transactional data includes
2 information concerning an originator of said [postage] indicium.

*Amend 141
Sub 141
20*

Amend Claim 149:

1 6¹ 149. (Amended) The method of claim 139 wherein said [postage] indicium includes
2 a digital signature for authenticating at least part of said [postage] indicium.

*Amend 149
Sub 149
20*

Amend Claim 151:

1 6¹ 151. (Amended) The method of claim 139 wherein said [postage] indicium includes
2 a human readable portion.

*Amend 151
Sub 151
20*

Amend Claim 154:

A26 Sub 1 154. (Amended) The method of claim [151] *139* ⁶⁶ wherein said [postage] indicium includes a machine readable portion.

Amend Claim 156:

A21 1 156. (Amended) The method of claim [155] *139* ⁶⁶ wherein said [second] first party is
2 a courier other than [the] a postal authority.

Amend Claim 158:

A26 Sub 1 158. (Amended) The method of claim *139* ⁶⁶ wherein said [postage] indicium is generated onto a tangible medium.

Amend Claim 160:

1 160. (Amended) The method of claim *139* ⁶⁶ wherein said [postage] indicium is
2 generated onto a mail piece.

Amend Claim 161:

A29 Sub 1 161. (Amended) A postage processing method comprising the steps of:
processing at least one [postage] indicium including a proof of payment, for service by a
3 first party, and transactional data comprising at least information representative of a transaction
4 amount; and
5 causing, in response to at least said transactional data, said transaction amount to be paid
6 to a second party when the [postage] indicium is processed.

A 29
Amend Claim 162:

Sub C19 *162* → *99 162*. (Amended) The method of claim *161* wherein said [postage] indicium appears *89*
on a mail piece.

Amend Claim 165:

A 30 *1 Sub C20* → *91 165*. (Amended) The method of claim *161* wherein said transactional data includes *89*
information concerning an originator of said [postage] indicium.

Amend Claim 173:

A 31 *1 Sub C21* → *92 173*. (Amended) The method of claim *161* wherein said [postage] indicium includes *89*
a digital signature for authenticating at least part of said [postage] indicium.

Amend Claim 175:

A 32 *1 Sub C22* → *110 175*. (Amended) The method of claim *161* wherein said [postage] indicium includes *89*
a human readable portion.

Amend Claim 178:

A 33 *1 Sub C23* → *94 178*. (Amended) The method of claim *161* wherein said [postage] indicium includes *89*
a machine readable portion.

Amend Claim 180:

A 34 1 *180* → *180*. (Amended) The method of claim *[179]* *161* wherein said [second] *first* party is *89*
2 a courier other than [the] *a* postal authority.

Amend Claim 192:

1 113 192. (Amended) A method for sending a mail piece comprising [the steps of]:
2 indicating on the mail piece information concerning a content in the mail piece; and
3 providing on the mail piece an indicator [for affirming that the content is included in the
4 mail piece], said indicator causing a processor of the mail piece to inform a third party of the
5 information while the mail piece is being sent.

Amend Claim 198:

1 121 198. (Amended) The method of claim 192 wherein the information is incorporated
2 in [a postage] an indicium.

Add Claim 199:

122 -- 199. (New) The method of claim 198 wherein the indicium includes a postage
amount. --.

Add Claim 200:

119 120 -- 200. (New) The method of claim 192 wherein the indicator affirms that the
content is included in the mail piece. --.

Add Claim 201:

121 122 -- 201. (New) The apparatus of claim 36 wherein the indicium includes a postage
amount. --.

Add Claim 202:

44
-- 202. (New)

amount.--.

The apparatus of claim 58 wherein the indicium includes a postage amount.--.

Add Claim 203:

14
-- 203. (New)

amount.--.

The method of claim 139 wherein the indicium includes a postage amount.--.

Add Claim 204:

98
-- 204. (New)

amount.--.

The method of claim 161 wherein the indicium includes a postage amount.--.

Add Claim 205:

123
-- 205. (New)

amount.--.

121

The method of claim 198 wherein the indicium includes a postage amount.--.

Add Claim 206:

-- 206. (New)

generating the indicator indicative of the computed cost onto the cover.--.

The apparatus of claim 8 further comprising a generator for

Add Claim 207:

-- 207. (New)

the indicator onto the cover. --.

The method of claim 113 further comprising the step of generating

Add Claim 208:

208. (New)

company.--

The apparatus of claim 36 wherein said second party is a utility

9

Add Claim 209:

209. (New)

company.--

The apparatus of claim 78 wherein said second party is a utility

49

Add Claim 210:

210 (New)

company.--

The method of claim 102 wherein said third party is a utility

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